

# MARION COUNTY

## Honorable James C. Cashion

Marion County Courthouse  
P. O. Box 748  
Hamilton, AL 35570  
(205) 921-4562

Paul Tucker  
Jane Raines  
Ann West  
Evelyn Walker  
Eva Carol Sartain  
Esther Ballard  
Dale Brasher  
Ken Millican  
Shelia Perry  
Randall Pickering

Judy Lawler  
Bravell Jackson  
Andrea Kell  
Patsy Lolley  
Lisa Murphy  
Arvy Dupuy  
Jennifer Nix  
Don Barnell  
Darlene Plamer  
Judy Young

Gregg Woodfin  
Laura Mann  
Ann Couch  
Mark Jarrett  
Robert Matthews  
Jack Bostick  
Katherine Mayo  
Bud Purser  
Terrell W. Kirkpatrick  
Cathy Glass



## PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All children in Marion County will be free from drug and alcohol abuse
2. All children in Marion County will have affordable transportation to available services
3. All children in Marion County will have access to disadvantaged families and at-risk children

# Issues

*Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.*

## **Health - Children's (0 - 19)** physical and mental well-being in the county.

### **Teen Smoking**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide information & education on health issues of smoking
- offer smoking cessation programs/health shops
- offer support system

### **Low Birth Weight**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- sponsor pregnancy prevention program for grades 6-12
- investigate how many minorities receive prenatal care & education
- referral to community resources: family planning services, WIC, SOBRA, All Kids

### **Teen Sexual Activity**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate teens & their parents about the consequences and responsibilities of early involvement
- encourage teens & parents through public awareness to utilize programs offered by legal agencies
- provide social support to teen males & females to include self-esteem, stress & being responsible

### **Child Obesity**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide early care & nutritional information to parents
- provide access to public assistance programs: WIC, food stamps, Medicaid, Extension
- involvement of school nurses and counselors

## **Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.**

### **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- start/sponsor prevention programs for K-12
- develop local treatment programs
- concentrate on enforcement issues

### **Juvenile Arrest Rate- Substance Abuse & Delinquent**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- JPO & DA's office will provide training to local & county law enforcement offices
- JPO will continue to mandate participation in local programs that provide education & counseling
- JPO will continue to mandate participation in local programs that provide education & counseling
- JPO will continue to communicate w/school officials, parents & law enforcement to refer all instances of substance abuse & crime to the juvenile court

### **Juvenile Sexual Offenders**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- to develop & implement intervention & treatment for juvenile sex offenders
- to encourage local health centers to provide services specific to sex offenders

### **To decrease use & manufacture of Crystal Methamphetamine**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- to promote an increase in community awareness & involvement
- to develop & implement school based prevention programs targeting middle school grade levels
- to improve the community treatment & education programs
- 

## **Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.**

### **Too many students dropping out of school & not graduating from high school**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- expand programs such as: technical education, school/work coop programs, non-traditional classroom alternative programs
- implement full-service schools to include summer programs, after school services, parenting programs
- create a mentoring program for at risk youth

### **Truancy Prevention**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- expand parent project program
- coordinate efforts among schools, juvenile justice system, mental health and parents to encourage/require attendance to parent projects & tutoring
- develop and/or expand truancy prevention intervention programs

### **Social Workers for Schools**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- school social workers to counsel w/parents & children concerning truancy problems
- to aid & counsel with parents & children concerning potential dropouts, as well as assisting dropouts w/obtaining alternative educational source to handle social issues concerning children in the school system

## Early Care and

**Education** - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

### Lack of early childhood education programs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- investigate funding resources to expand /add programs
- make pre-k available

### Quality Childcare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- raise foster payments
- stipend for parents for children in daycare
- training curriculum for daycare providers

## Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

### Increase availability of job training/placement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide information and resources of job availability
- collaborate w/job training & education sites to implement programs
- build on existing service providers, (i.e. Alabama Career Center System for career preparation, skill training & labor market information)

### Affordable Transportation county-wide

Policy Council Action Steps:

- secure funding for public transportation
- collaborate & coordinate w/existing agencies w/an operating transportation system

## Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

### Lack of Parental involvement in child's life

Policy Council Action Steps:

- promote & encourage parental involvement through school & church oriented programs
- referral to the Parent Project
- stipulate to families drawing certain state benefits that parental involvement in necessary & mandated w/verification being required

### Recognizing & Dealing w/Substance abuse in children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- teaching parents to recognize signs of drug use
- teaching parents how to deal w/children abusing drugs & prevention
- community support in providing programs for children abusing drugs, along w/support groups

### Children in county will be safe from abuse & violence

Policy Council Action Steps:

- recommend court-ordered referrals to Parent Project for at-risk juveniles & their families
- promote community-based parenting programs through the school system expand programs to educate children about abuse and safety

## Policy Recommendation

1. More funding for rural counties.
2. Funding for public transportation.
3. More money provided on the state level for quality low income childcare.
4. Additional juvenile probation officers and/or staff for the county.
5. Funding for programs to teach parents how to be involved with their children's life.
6. School resource officers or school social workers.